

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----069785 271357Z /53

O R 271330Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7690
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1115

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS CALLED ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY MORNING OF APRIL 27 AND TOLD ME THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE' IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE MAKING DEMARCHE SAME DAY. PELAGHIAS, WHO IS ACTING HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN ROLANDIS, SAID HE MADE IT A PRACTICE TO INFORM EMBASSIES OF SUCH APPROACHES.

2. THE MATTER INVOLVED THE REPLY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD MADE TO A QUESTION PUT TO HIM AT THE PRESS BRIEFING ON APRIL 21. THE QUESTION WAS "IS TURKEY VIOLATING AMERICAN LAW BY VIRTUE OF ITS PRESENCE IN CYPRUS?" HE THEN READ TO ME THE LENGTHY REPLY FROM THE SPOKESMAN WHICH ENDED UP THAT TURKEY WAS NOT NOW VIOLATING U.S. LAW.

3. PELAGHIAS SAID THAT THE ACTION OF THE TURKISH ARMY IN CYPRUS IN 1974 WAS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAD BEEN COMMITTED WITH THE USE OF U.S. ARMS AND NOTHING REALLY HAD CHANGED IN CYPRUS SINCE 1974. THEREFORE, THE GOC BELIEVES THAT IT WAS "NOT PROPER" FOR THE SPOKESMAN TO REPRESENT THE CASE TODAY
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AS BEING DIFFERENT THAN THAT WHICH EXISTED IN 1974.

4. THE DIRGEN SAID THE GOC AND PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY KNEW HOW MUCH THE AMERICAN CONGRESS, AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF BELIEVED IN THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEREFORE, THE GOC DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT WAS IN ACCORD WITH PRESENT U.S.

POLICY AS IT HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY EXPOUNDED BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

5. THEY ALSO BELIEVED THERE WAS A DISCREPANCY WHEN THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "THE LAWS OF THE U.S. DO NOT OF THEMSELVES CREATE OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN STATES TO DO OR TO REFRAIN FROM DOING ANYTHING." PELAGHIAS SAID THIS STATEMENT WAS AT ODDS WITH ALL THE COMMITMENTS TO PEACH ENSHRINED IN NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING THE CHARTER OF THE UN AND THE CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HAD BEEN FORMALLY RATIFIED BY THE U.S. HE REFERRED TO FREEDOM AS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. AND ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE NOT ONLY THINKING OF THE U.S. BUT IN THEIR GREAT WISDOM WERE THINKING UNIVERSALLY ABOUT THE RIGHTS THAT THEY ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

6. HE THEN ALLUDED TO WHAT HE CALLED "BLACKMAIL METHODS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT" CITING THE FACT THAT THEY AHD INVITED THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SOVIET ARMY TO VISIT TURKEY AT THIS TIME, WHEREAS NO SUCH VISIT HAD OCCURRED FOR 40 YEARS, AND ALSO TO THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT BY PRIMIN ECEVIT TO MOSCOW IN JUNE. HE SAID THEY BELIEVED SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE RESENTED BY THE U.S. AND ALLEGED THAT NEITHER THE GOC OR GOG HAD EVER PLAYED SUCH A GAME. PELAGHIAS ADMITTED THAT GOC MIGHT, AT TIMES, APPEAR MORE CRITICAL OF THE U.S. THAN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT THIS WAS BECAUSE THEY PLACED SO MUCH HOPE IN THE U.S. ROLE IN SOLVING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT IN RE-READING THE TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT

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CARTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU LAST OCTOBER IN NEW YORK, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE GOC HAD REALLY PLACED THEMSELVES IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S HANDS.

7. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING "WE WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE BUT WE KNOW WHERE OUR ALLEGIANCE LIES."

8. I THANKED THE DIRGEN FOR INFORMING ME OF THE PROSPECTIVE DEMARCHE AND TOLD HIM I WOULD SO INFORM MY GOVERNMENT.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI01115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0297
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaahru.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e3fb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814508
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e3fb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014